

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 /063 W

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O R 221500Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 987

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: REVIVED CONTROVERSY OVER 1974 MEMORANDUM OF ARCHBISHOP

TAKOVOS CONTINUES

REF: ATHENS 8055

1. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED AN URGENT REQUEST FROM THE MFA (MANOLATOS, AMERICAN DESK) EARLY THIS AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 22, FOR INFORMATION FROM OUR FILES REGARDING A DEPARTMENT OF STATE STATEMENT IN NOVEMBER 1974 IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 11, 1974 EVANS/NOVAK COLUMN ON THE IAKOVOS MEMORANDUM. SUBSEQUENTLY THE CHARGE RECEIVED A SIMILAR REQUEST FROM CU/NF LEADER MAVROS.

2. ON THE BASIS OF STATE 249639 (NOVEMBER 13, 1974), WE ADVISED THE MFA THAT ON NOVEMBER 12, 1974 THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN HAD CHARACTERIZED THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SECRETARY IN THE EVANS/NAVAK COLUMN AS "INACCURATE." WE ALSO REMINDED THE MFA THAT AT THE TIME THE AMBASSADOR HAD ALSO PASSED ON TO FONMIN BITSIOS CERTAIN BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN THIS CONNECTION (WHICH WAS BASED ON PARA 1
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OF STATE 249635 AND WHICH WE SUMMARIZED FOR MANOLATOS).

MANOLATOS INDICATED THAT THE STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS SUFFICIENT AND IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO USE THE BACKGROUND COMMENTS. THE CHARGE ONLY PASSED ON TO MAVROS THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SECRETARY AS "INACCURATE" BUT DID NOT MENTION TO HIM THE BACKGROUND COMMENTS.

3. THE REVIVED CONTROVERSY OVER THE 1974 IAKOVOS MEMORANDUM (REFTEL) CONTINUED WITH PUBLIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN MAVROS AND PAPANDREOU INTO THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF OCTOBER 20 AND THEN PRETTY MUCH DIED OUT IN THE PRESS ON OCTOBER 21 AND 22 EXCEPT FOR ATHINAIKI (WHICH SUPPORTS PAPANDREOU AND PASOK GENERALLY). THIS AFTERNOON'S ATHINAIKI CARRIES A LEAD STORY CLAIMING THAT "AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT" WILL BE MADE WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS VINDICATING PAPANDREOU'S CLAIM THAT THE TEXT OF THE IAKOVOS MEMORANDUM PUBLISHED IN KATHIMERINI ON OCTOBER 18 IS AUTHENTIC.

4. IN VIEW OF THE REQUESTS WE RECEIVED FROM MANOLATOS AND MAVROS, WE EXPECT THAT THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE IAKOVOS MEMORANDUM IS LIKELY TO COME UP IN PARLIAMENT, POSSIBLE THIS EVENING, WHICH MAVROS HAS BEEN ASKING FOR AND WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR BEEN TRYING TO DISCOURAGE. HOWEVER, NEITHER MANOLATOS NOR MAVROS CONFIRMED THIS FOR US. STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS08127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750366-1170
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751030/aaaabarv.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 8055
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVIVED CONTROVERSY OVER 1974 MEMORANDUM OF ARCHBISHOP TAKOVOS CONTINUES
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FORD, GERALD R), (ARCHBISHOP TAKOVOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006